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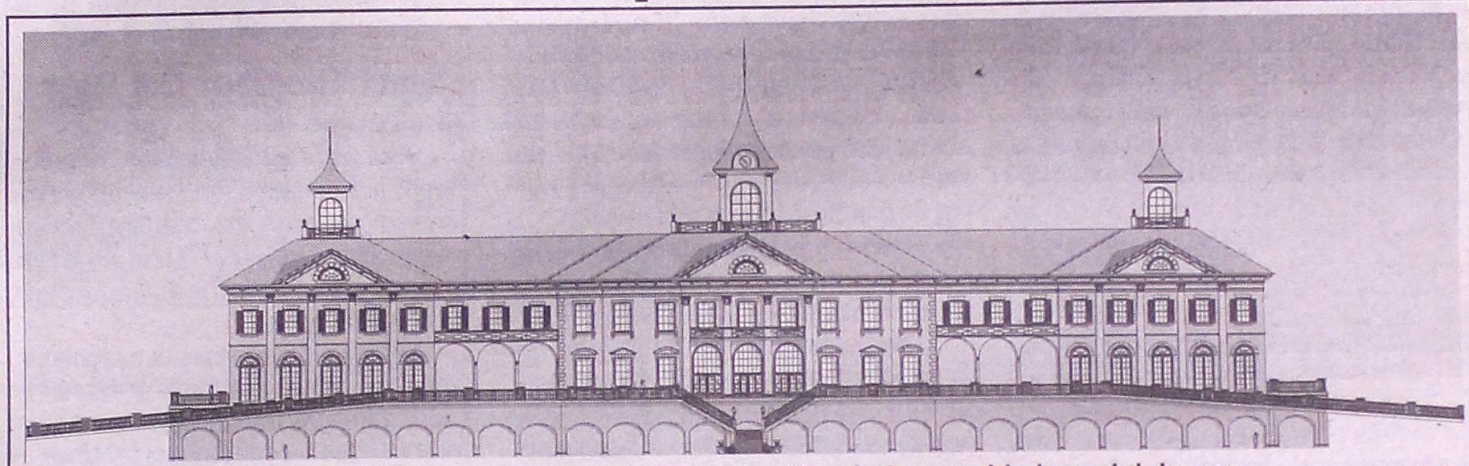
THE Romulus News

SEPTEMBER 6, 2002 – SEPTEMBER 19, 2002 "the little paper" VOLUME 16 NUMBER 4

Racetrack Proposed for Romulus



Magna Entertainment Corp. says its proposed racetrack will include a world-class club house.

By Kristi Stephens

Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC), one of the largest operators of premier horse racetracks in the United States, recently announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary, Michigan Racing, Inc., is pursuing plans to construct a track in the City of Romulus. The company has already filed a licensing application with the Michigan Racing Commissioner's Office. Issuance of a license is subject to review and approval by the Michigan Racing Commissioner, Annette Bacola.

Sue Floyd, Manager of Corporate Communications for MEC, said that the proposed new racetrack – to be located at the northeast corner of Wick and Vining Roads, just north of I-94 – would occupy approximately 212 acres and cost about $200 million to construct. The track would be a dual-purpose facility that could host both thoroughbred and standardbred racing. A total of three racecourses – to be located along the facility's north end on Smith Road – would be arranged in concentric ovals: the outermost, a 1 1/8-mile dirt track; the center, a 1-mile turf course; and the innermost, a 7/8-mile harness track. The clubhouse would be situated to the east of the track, while parking to the south would be accessible from both Wick and Vining roads.

In an MEC press release, dated August 29, President/CEO Jim McAlpine

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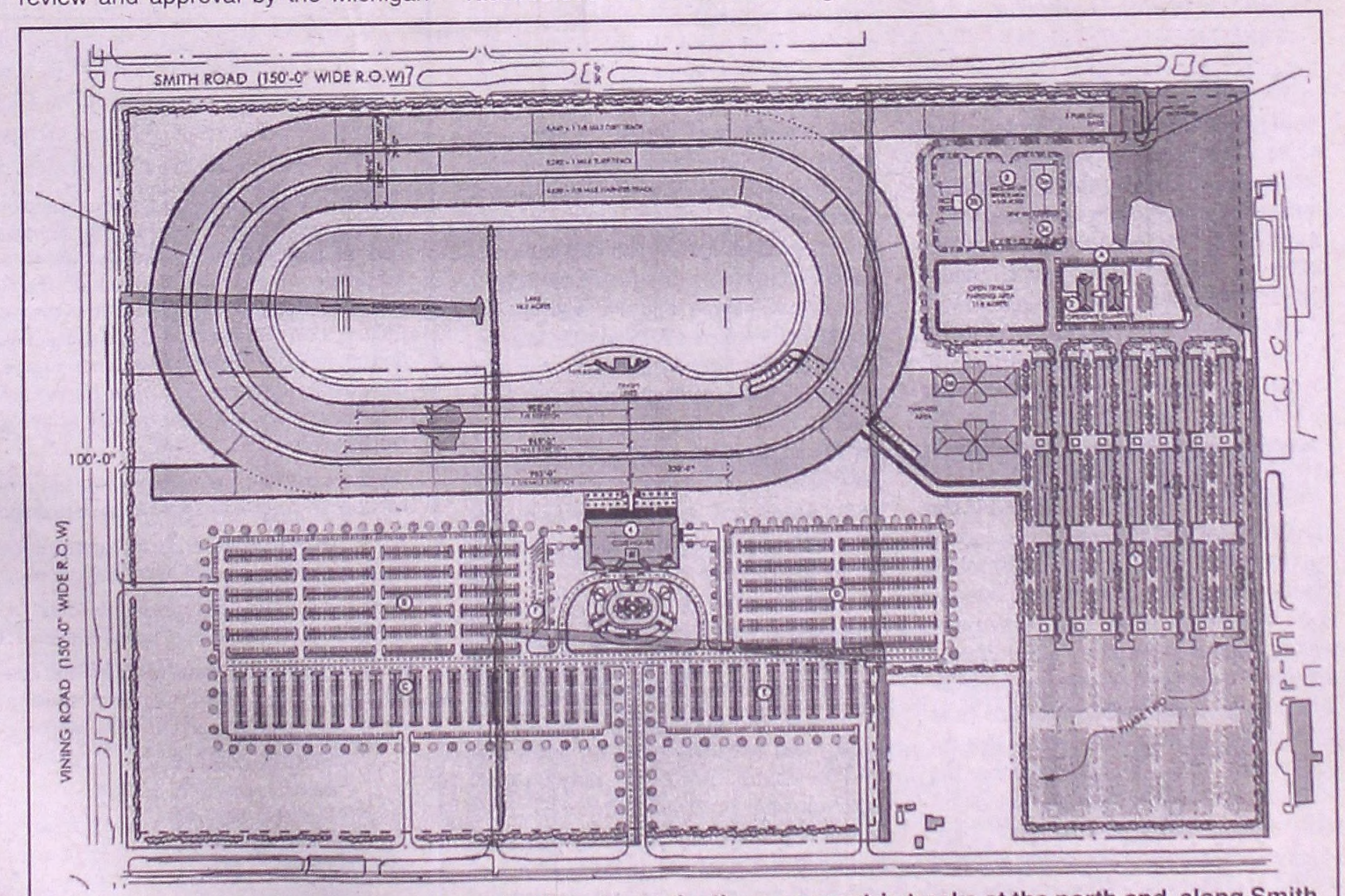

MEC's site plan for its proposed racing facility shows the three concentric tracks at the north end, along Smith Road; parking to the south, accessed from Vining and Wick roads; and the clubhouse to the east, toward Merriman.

Timely Tidbits ...

Remembering 9/11

Residents, business people, and civic leaders from Romulus and the surrounding area have planned a number of special programs in remembrance of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Here are just a few ...

Downriver Remembers

Twenty-three communities will commemorate the events of September 11 and honor local air, fire, police, and emergency-services heroes at "Downriver Remembers" – a program to be held at Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery (located at 32163 West Huron River Drive in Huron Township).

Scheduled events will begin at 12:30 p.m. and include performances by the Seaway Chorale, the Downriver Community Band, and the Shrine Highlanders Detroit Bagpipers, as well as an F-16 fly-over from Selfridge Air International (flown by United and American Airlines pilots), the dedication of various commemorative plaques, and a "solemn procession" led by fire, police, emergency vehicles, honor guards, and local elected officials.

Looking Back/Looking Forward

Calvary Baptist Church of Romulus is inviting the public to attend a special service called "Looking Back, Looking Forward." For more information, please see the advertisement on page 12.

Seniors Host Memorial Service

The Romulus Senior Center will host a memorial service on September 11. For details, see "Sassy Seniors" on page 19.

Romulus Schools Remember

Joel R. Carr, Superintendent of Romulus Community Schools, reports that all district schools will observe a moment of silence on Wednesday, September 11.

Additionally, each school will host its own commemorative program. One of the most interesting will be at Wick Elementary, where ceremonies will feature a number of students dressed in red, white, or blue and grouped together in such a way as to form an American flag. ❑

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. (Writers need not be afraid to include their name when asking for anonymity, since all such names are kept in the strictest confidence, regardless of whether or not the letter is published.)

The Romulus News *reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.*

Opinions expressed in the "Letters to the Editor" column are not necessarily shared by the staff of The Romulus News.

"Market" Support Urged

To the Editor:

We were in the new store (Romulus Market Place) recently and realized that there were just a few shoppers.

Everyone agreed that we needed this store, but it turns out that we are not using it.

Please support the store in downtown Romulus and be proud of our city.

Sincerely,
Jim and Norma Thompson
Romulus

A Rift with Granholm

There's a rumor in Michigan that African American women voters do not like or support gubernatorial candidate Jennifer Granholm. This tale spread after only 23% of African American females voted for Granholm during the recent primary election.

As a woman who happens to be African American, I can only speak for myself: It's not that I don't like Jennifer Granholm as a person; it's just that the essence of who I am does not resonate with what she stands for.

I think one of the main reasons the media has taken notice of the discrepancy of race and gender among Granholm's voters is because, historically, women of all races have been and continue to be oppressed in America's patriarchal society. There is an underlying assumption that gender would eliminate race lines and bond women in seeing eye-to-eye on most issues. Please note that it is not Granholm's race or gender that alienates me as a black female voter; I am simply unmoved by her political track record and platform. Some of her successes include: high-tech crime prevention, consumer and environmental protection, and senior citizen safety. Her Website notes that Granholm's office "... brought the nation's first criminal charges against an on-line company selling GHB date drug ..." and adds "[She was the] first law enforcement official to use racketeering charges to successfully shut down a for-profit child-pornography website ... [She] took action against 46 gas stations accused of price gouging during September 11 terrorist attack."

These are respectable achievements, but my concerns and needs are a bit more basic.

I don't allow my 10- and 11-year-old to surf the Internet without my permission or close supervision. We mainly use it as a research tool for homework assignments. Most of the families I know and work with do not have access to the Internet or cannot afford to allow their children to surf freely.

I am more concerned about the people who sell drugs in our neighborhoods. I worry about my children's safety on their way to and from school. I worry about the quality of education that my children are receiving in Michigan's public school system. (By the way, who's court is the ball in – Detroit's or Lansing's? I've lost count.) I worry about the families that I work with in the child welfare system who need so many basic human services that are now unavailable. Unfortunately, this is an old, boring story that still rings true for me.

I commend Granholm's campaign for Attorney General. Frankly, I had never heard of her valiant efforts to make a difference in my community. I don't recall much of what she stood for, but I do recall Michigan's previous Attorney General, Frank Kelly, asking his supporters to vote for Granholm. Additionally, Wayne County Prosecutor McNamara churned her through his political machine and anointed her with his political prowess. I don't feel like Granholm connected with the masses and earned the respect of Michigan voters. I feel like she has made the best out of what was handed over to her by the powers-that-be.

It's great that Granholm graduated from California at Berkeley and Harvard Law School. It's just that these aren't the type of credentials that I think are important in a governor.

Please set the record straight: It's not that this black woman doesn't like Granholm; her political dream is just not a reflection of the nightmare that I live in on a daily basis. What I do admire about Jennifer Granholm is that at least she is not a liar who promises to address certain issues, but, once elected, develops amnesia. I may not support her as a gubernatorial candidate, but I sure appreciate her honesty.

Cassandra George Sturges
Ypsilanti

Start The Year Off Right

To the Editor:

As a current Trustee of the Romulus Board of Education, and having served for many years on previous boards in my native City of Romulus, I first would like to acknowledge that it is an honor and a privilege to serve.

I have a long history of association with the Romulus Community Schools. I, along with my two children, graduated from Romulus High School, and we all attest to the fine education provided by the system, which is evident by their continued education at fine universities.

With the 2002–2003 school year upon us, let us challenge ourselves to make Romulus Schools the best in Wayne County. The taxpayers and parents of Romulus have given the school district the resources to build a new elementary school, new swimming pools at the High School, and other amenities that are second to none.

I, as a Trustee on the Board, express my gratitude and thanks to the citizens of Romulus for their generosity and confidence. It shows the community's commitment to education and the will to provide the means for it to happen. I thank the community on behalf of our children.

In giving thanks, however, there is also an urgency and challenge to our parents and students to do their part. Parents, we need your continued participation in the education of your children. We need your commitment to continue to challenge and get involved in this educational journey. We need your assistance with the discipline and moral upbringing that will only make our system better for all.

We must challenge our children to do more. It is our responsibility to see to it that our children are given the best opportunities for productive lives, and

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The Romulus News

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Blueprinting the Future: City To Update Its Master Plan

With the full approval of the City Council, the face of Romulus is about to receive a professional make-over.

For the first time in 12 years, the City will revisit and update its "master plan," a document that maps out existing conditions of land use, transportation, housing, and natural features, then charts out a unifying future for these conditions. Ultimately, the master plan impacts the look, movement, and growth of a city.

"Creating a master plan is really an interactive process," said Cynthia Lyon, Romulus City Planner. "It's a collaboration between our citizens, the Romulus Planning Commission, elected officials, and the master plan contractor we've chosen."

According to Lyon, the company of Langworthy Strader LeBlanc & Associates (LSL) was chosen to assist Romulus in updating the City's master plan following a lengthy and detailed interview and selection process. LSL has produced nearly 100 master plans for communities throughout Michigan, including Grand Rapids, Port Huron, Harper Woods, Lansing, and Ypsilanti.

Romulus's master plan will look at a number of factors and conditions, including five major existing or planned developments in the City of Romulus. These existing or planned developments include the downtown area, Metro World Centre, a segment of Merriman Road, Eureka Road at I-275, and, of course, Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

"We want to manage the growth and development of the city in a manner that's consistent with its character," said Mayor Alan R. Lambert. "Public workshops and Planning Commission meetings that are open to the public will help us better determine the character of the city and incorporate it into the look and feel of the city."

Before a draft of the updated master plan document is created, the public is invited to review recommendations and provide comment throughout the updating process at public hearings.

Mayor Alan R. Lambert

"It's important that our citizens understand and take advantage of their important role in the developmental process of this plan," said Lambert. "Their ideas will influence the future of our city."

Meetings and updates on the progress of the City's new master plan will be posted on the Romulus cable access TV channel and the City's new Website (www.romulusgov.com) once it "goes live" later this month. Updates on the status of the master plan process will be available from the Planning Department. Information is also free to the public through the Economic Development's table, which will be located next to the hospitality table at this year's Pumpkin Festival (September 20–22).

Lyon said that the process of creating a master plan takes about 12 months to complete.

For more information on the City of Romulus master plan, please call Lyon, AICP, at 734-229-0691. ❑

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District Welcomes Back Employees

Joel R. Carr, Superintendent of Romulus Community Schools, welcomed back more than 500 employees at the district's annual breakfast honoring those who have reached significant service milestones in their careers. The event was held at the High School on August 26.

Carr took the opportunity to point out many of the summer's improvement projects, including the new seating and carpeting in the High School auditorium, the near completion of the High School's pool complex, and the new windows installed at Barth, Halecreek, and Wick elementaries.

School Board members Billy McCraight (President), Betty Lenossi (Vice-president), Cheryle Buckley (Secretary), and Ken Mientkiewicz (Trustee) were on hand to congratulate the honorees. The district's now-famous "Fishettes" led the group in a rousing rendition of "Born in the USA."

Employees honored for reaching service milestones included:

10 Years

Gina Carter, Janis Davis, Diane Kocenda, Antonia Soave, and Rita Talley.

15 Years

Rebecca Hojnowski, Diane Miller, Donna Phillips, Gerald Rzepka, and Patricia Sprinkle.

20 Years

Ed Clark and Patricia Massad-Flodin.

25 Years

Ella Coleman, Suzanne Eastman, Betty Santo, Gloria Swanson, Winifred Wafter, and Phyllis Wilkerson.

30 Years

Lance Knudson, Arvern Logan, Sam Olive, Rebecca Oz, Nancy Schonscheck, Al Wilkerson, and Marilyn Wood.

35 Years

Linda Cook. ❑

Entries Sought for Homecoming Parade

Jason Kahler, Student Government advisor at Romulus High School, recently announced the district's plans for the annual Homecoming Parade, set for Friday, October 4.

"Once again, we are strongly urging the community to become involved," said Kahler. "Marching bands, youth groups, and other organizations can register, free of charge, by filling out a form and returning it to the High School."

Kahler asked potential entrants to note and abide by the following rules.

- Objects (candy, fliers, etc.) may not be thrown to the crowd along the parade route.
- Political advertising or distribution of political literature is prohibited.
- Each group or unit must provide its own banner or sign stating its name.
- Any group planning to use animals must provide a cleanup detail to follow the group.
- Groups/units cannot participate in the parade unless they have been preregistered and approved by the Homecoming Committee.

According to Kahler, parade entrants will line up in the Romulus City Hall parking lot at 4 p.m. The parade, set to begin at 5 p.m., will follow its usual route (Gabriel to Goddard to Neville to Ozga) before winding up at Romulus Middle School's athletic field, where the Eagles will face Lincoln Park High School in the 7 p.m. Homecoming Game. ❑

RHS HOMECOMING PARADE ENTRY FORM

Group Name _____

Group Representative _____

Address _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Type of Entry (check more than one, if applicable)

___ Marching Band ___ Marching Unit ___ Scout Group ___ Float

___ Baton/Pompon ___ Color Guard ___ Antique Car ___ Vehicle

___ Other (Please Specify) _____

Description of Entry _____

_____

Number of Participants _____

Send entries to Jason Kahler c/o Romulus High School, 9650 Wayne Rd., Romulus, MI 48174; fax to 734-532-1001. Call 734-532-1053 for info.

Deadline for registration is Wednesday, September 25.

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Career Milestones

Linda Cook (second from right), Director of Technology, was honored for reaching her 35-year service milestone by (from left) Director of Human Resources Ed Clark and Board of Education members Billy McCraight, Cheryle Buckley, Ken Mientkiewicz, and Betty Lenossi.

Romulus Community Schools employees who were congratulated for reaching the 30-year career milestone were (from left) Sam Olive, Rebecca Oz, Arvern Logan, Al Wilkerson, Nancy Schonscheck, Lance Knudson, and Marilyn Wood.

The 25-year group of honorees included (from left) Winifred Wafer, Suzanne Eastman, Betty Santo, and Phyllis Wilkerson.

Gerald Rzepka represented the district's 15-year employees; 20-year employees were represented by Patricia Massad-Flodin.

Among those employees who had reached the 10-year career milestone with the school district were (from left) Gina Carter, Antonia Soave, and Rita Talley.

The district's "Fishettes" took advantage of the program to recognize employees with August birthdays. Honorees included (from left) Terry Bird, Joel R. Carr, and Al Wilkerson.

Racetrack Proposed for Romulus

continued from page 1

remarked, "We have always viewed Michigan as an important market for horseracing and the Detroit metroplex as the ideal location for the development of a modern racetrack facility. Michigan horse owners and breeders of all types have expressed a keen interest in working with MEC in the development of a new racetrack facility in this area. The population base in the area is also strongly supportive of various sporting and gaming initiatives.

"We are hopeful that our application will be viewed favorably and look forward to working with the City of Romulus, the Office of the Racing Commissioner and the Michigan horse industry in order to successfully complete this project."

When an article about the proposed track appeared in the August 30 edition of the *Detroit News*, it was a big surprise to nearly everyone in Romulus – including most of the City's elected officials. A firestorm of phone calls to City Hall prompted Mayor Alan R. Lambert to address the issue at the September 3 meeting of the City Council.

"We had a meeting on Thursday [August 29] with these people from the race track," said Lambert. "This meeting was called by our city planner, actually ... not [Romulus City Planner] Cindy [Lyon], but a firm [McKenna Associates, Inc.] that does planning for us. So, when they ... set up the meeting, we're thinking it's about planning issues.

"Well," he continued, "they get here Thursday and they lay all this stuff on the table, and they say, 'We're gonna build this big race track here for $200 million. And, in fact, when we get through here, we're going down to Lansing to pull our gaming license' and all this other stuff.

"And I said, 'Well, gentlemen, I think that's kind of quick, isn't it? I mean, you really haven't asked our opinion, asked the Council's opinion, asked *anybody's* opinion.' ... Obviously, these people just thought they were gonna come and push their way in here."

Lambert continued by giving his own opinion about the project.

"I'll be honest with you right now; I'll be the first to be very open about it. I'm opposed to this project. I don't think it's good for the community of Romulus.

"That Metro World [Center] that everybody ... has been waiting so long [for] to get some great development over there – our retail, our restaurants, our shopping – they don't want to come next to a horse track. Not in my mind. I don't believe that. I think it's gonna hurt our Metro World Center. So, I'm opposed to the project.

"Obviously, ultimately it's going to be up to the Planning Commission to start and then the City Council members, but I'm making it clear from the get: I'm opposed to the project," Lambert concluded.

Council Chairman Randy Gear – who had given the *Detroit News* an off-the-cuff quote when surprised by their call ("I haven't heard anything about it. It sounds nice. We had that area set aside for office space, but we have a lot of space over there. If it could generate some revenue [for the City], I wouldn't have a problem with it.") – told Mayor Lambert, "In the article, I said that ... it sounds nice, but it's okay if it's in another area."

Among other City officials who have commented about the proposed facility is Councilman Michael Prybyla.

"First of all, I don't like the way we all found out about it," Prybyla told *The Romulus News*. "I do have bad feelings about it now. I'm not sure that a sports facility of that kind is warranted in this community.

"I just can't figure out why we're attracting these kinds of projects instead of the ones we really want, like shopping malls and other nice facilities," he added.

Prybyla said he plans to do a lot of research in the upcoming weeks. He'll be checking out other communities with racetracks to see what kind of impact the facilities have had on their host communities, and what types of growth and development have occurred in their vicinity.

Prybyla has also been trying to gauge local citizens' reaction to news of the project. So far, he said, "'Not too excited' seems to be the general opinion."

Residents' calls to *The Romulus News* have been a mixed bag – everything from "If it comes, I go!" to "How exciting!"

One woman, who lives in the subdivision southwest of the proposed site, said, "I definitely *don't* want it here. I can't imagine that the noise and smell from a racetrack would be very pleasant. Besides, we've been hoping for shopping and restaurants to go in back there. Who knows if quality businesses would develop next door to a gambling facility?"

Yet a gentleman who lives just down the street from her said, "I think it's a great idea! Our city is growing, and we could use the extra tax dollars for expanding services, especially the full-time fire department that so many of us want.

"Time after time, we hear about some project that's supposed to go up at Metro World, but nothing ever comes of it," he continued. "We've been waiting for years while one company after another has passed us by. I say we should welcome the racing people with open arms. Surely other restaurants and stores will want a part of the action once there's a ready-made crowd. It could be a great draw for other entertainment, too – something we sorely lack right now." ❑

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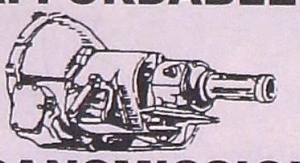
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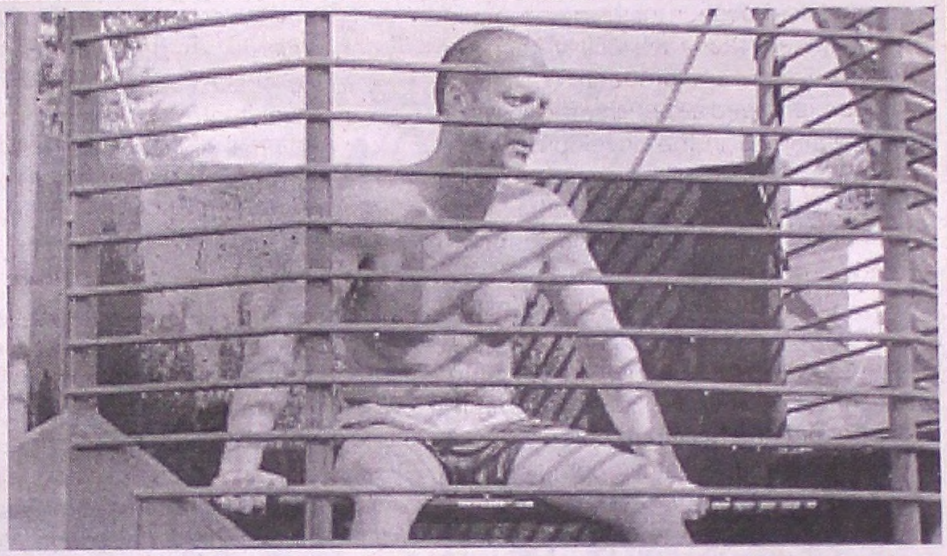

Romulus City Councilman LeRoy Burcroff – one of several civic leaders who did volunteer duty in the St. Aloysius Festival dunk tank last month – prepares for another plunge ...

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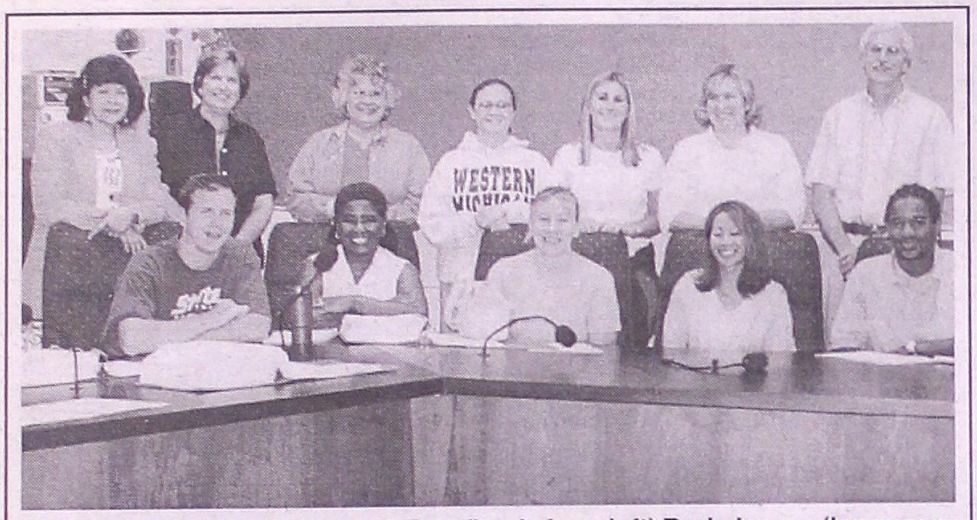

Elementary curriculum specialists (back, from left) Barb Jasczc (language arts), Lynn Behta (math), Pat Adams (science), and (back, right) Charles Kidwell (social studies) did a curriculum workshop with new Romulus Elementary teachers, including (from left): front row – Lee Haselschwerdt, ShaVonna Johnson, Molly Parent, Stephanie Wiersma, and Wes Faulkner; back row – Amanda Napolitano, Karen Terwilliger, and Natalie Montague.

More high-tech digital equipment was recently installed in the Romulus High School engineering lab. Vendors Andrei Ealovega (second from right) and Dan Champagne (right) of Howard and Smith explained various operational points to (from left) Terry Bird (teacher, industrial tech), David Cooper (student teacher), Jane Johnson (teacher, digital electronics and mathematics), and Doug Hoffman (Assistant Principal, RHS).

(From left) RHS science teacher Carmen Lawes chaperoned students like Rhiannon Crawford, Shamara Hill, Jessica Workman, and Shannon Kowalski at this summer's leadership program at Camp Copneconic.

Members of the new freshman class – including (from left) Ileana Usztics, Sara Hurt, Kristina Pruett, Brittany Barrios, and Holly Wood – enjoyed the High School's orientation program/tour.

Jasmine Bennett (left) and Amber Netter started their first match as the number-two doubles team for Romulus High School's Lady Eagles, who moved up to the Mega Blue Division after two consecutive 10–0 Mega Gold championship seasons. They are off to a 2–0 start this year.

Tracy Rusan and her son Lance were among many students and parents who went through Romulus Middle School's orientation program on Tuesday, August 20. They also got a chance to view the new bleacher infrastructure as it was installed.

Welcome Back!

The Romulus Community Schools' annual "Welcome Back" breakfast was well attended by many smiling staff members eager to begin the new school year. Among them (from left): Nancy Schonscheck, Flo Satterlee, Cindy Bennett, Jesse Meriweather, Mae Jackson, Jennifer Jackson, Linda Poirier, Opal McClendon, and Terry Kamensky.

Enjoying the opportunity to talk over the coming year were many district cafeteria/food-services employees, including (from left): front row – Karen McFall, Laura Love, Faye Knight, and Sharon Zilka; back row – Karen Zilka, Linda Redman, Brenda Blankenship, Joanne Gross, Judy Frederick, Sally Manning, and Sharon Howie.

Other attendees (from left): Doug Hoffman, Robert McLain, Lisa Zeleji, Thomas Gibb-Randall, Lee Haselschwerdt, Staci Alguire, Debbie Juriga, and Lance Knudson.

Other attendees (from left): Bev Baker, Bill Musham, John Deforest, Sharman Spiecer, Rose Cuschieri, Barb Fortune, Midge Hamel, and Alice Kesner.

Other attendees (from left): front row – Rhonda McAllister, Deborah Street, Sue Cooper-White, Sally Berger, and Jerilyn Burcroff; back row – Barb Collier, Tonya Carter, Donna Wilson, Sandy McDonald, Pat Massad-Flodin, Marge Olson, and Becky Weimer.

Still other attendees included (from left): front row – Yvette Austin, Barb Collier, Lori Good, Angelica Richardson, and Marilyn Hidenfelter; back row – Leslie McCurdy, Amber Ackerman, Latoya Shackelford, and Terri Brinston.

Welcome Back!

Other attendees (from left): Stacy Paige, Molly Parent, and David Pelc; back row – Carmen Lawes, Angela Siggia, and Jessica Randles.

Other attendees (from left): front row – Rochelle Watson, Sam Bonam, and Stephanie Wiersma; back row – Mike Blackburn, Kara Pluff, and Sara Scott.

(From left) Bus drivers Nancy Daniels, Joanne Prater, Jenny Prater, Kathy Montney, and Dorothy McKinnie enjoyed talking over the summer's experiences with Romulus High School custodians Karen Kendrick, Diane Barwikowski, and Susie Knight.

Other attendees (from left): Gretchen Firestone, Thelma Foch, Karen Richard, Doris Baker, Abbie Whitehead, and Ellen Bragg; back row – Dawn Pluff, Kathleen Hall, Lisa Handyside, Gary Banas, Dan McCabe, and Hillary Kozema.

Romulus Middle School teachers discussing their plans for the school year included (from left): Rebecca Meritew-Young, Kathleen Hall, Lisa Handyside, Sharon Grandell, Andrea Jurk, and Cari Thurkow.

Barth staff members – including (from left) Kara Wasser, Lori Siegenthaler, Sylvia LaBoda, Lauren Withey, and Rebecca Montroy – enjoyed the "Career Milestones" program that followed the breakfast.

Planning for Annual Pumpkin Festival Shifts into High Gear

Planning for the sixth annual Romulus Pumpkin Festival is well underway – and, according to members of the Pumpkin Festival Planning Committee, it will be the biggest and best yet.

"We're still actively recruiting volunteers and vendors for the festival," said Maria Lambert, Director of the Romulus Downtown Development Authority and Pumpkin Fest Committee volunteer. "Considering that we expect double the attendance of last year, building our volunteer base and expanding our list of vendors is essential to the success of the festival."

The three-day event will be held Friday, September 20, through Sunday, September 22. (Be sure to check our September 20 issue for a full schedule of events.)

Among the biggest attractions at the Pumpkin Festival will be a wide selection of live musical entertainment, including country-western, rhythm & blues, and rock. The internationally renowned recording group Straight Ahead will also make a highly anticipated appearance. The unique all-female jazz group is scheduled to perform on Saturday at 1 p.m.

The festival also will offer a variety of vendor wares, arts & crafts exhibitors, children's activities, cooking competitions, and old-fashioned contests in events such as hay-rolling, pie-eating, pie-baking, and canning.

But perhaps the most popular attraction of the festival is the annual "Parade of Lights" – featuring all manner of colorfully and creatively illuminated vehicles – that will kick off the festival on Friday evening.

Herb Buckley, Director of the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, says that the festival may be only six years old, but it has grown from roots that go back more than a century and a half.

"It began as a way to celebrate the end of the harvest," explained Buckley, who is also a Committee volunteer. "It was a time for families to get together with all of their neighbors and laborers to honor the hard work each had put into the harvest by sharing food, each other's company, and music.

"Romulus is a very family-oriented, hard-working community. Our Pumpkin Festival carries on a great tradition of celebrating each other, old friends, and new," he added.

In keeping with this awareness of the importance of our past, the City of Romulus, the Romulus Historical Commission, and the Romulus Historical Society will be working together to offer festival-goers a preview of the beautifully restored Kingsley house in Romulus Historic Park. The historic two-story home was built in the mid 1800s by one of Romulus's original settlers.

Over the past seven years, the house has gone through various restoration phases, including the monumental task of moving it from its original location at Five Points.

"The mayor has written a letter to one of the Kingsley descendants – a gentleman who lives in Milford – inviting him to attend the preview of his ancestral home," said Lambert. "Over the two days of Saturday, September 21 and Sunday, September 22, the historic Kingsley house and the nearby surrounding Historic Park will host quilting and weaving demonstrations, a Civil War battle reenactment, traditional hammered-dulcimer music, and a storyteller."

The festival will also include a highly anticipated performance by Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert's rock band.

"I think my band proves you can be a responsible adult and still 'rock out,'" said the mayor, who is also the band's drummer. "We're not a wanna-be rock band. We're good."

With a smile, he added, "At least, that's what our parents and our friends tell us.

"You'll just have to come to the Pumpkin Festival and judge for yourself."

In the long term, the hope is to build the annual Pumpkin Festival into a major fall-season tourist attraction for the southeastern Michigan area.

"Romulus is a great city and one that we'd like to share with people throughout Michigan," said Lambert. "The Pumpkin Festival is ideal for showcasing our city, expanding our vendor relationships, and highlighting the season," she concluded.

For information on volunteering to work at the sixth annual Romulus Pumpkin Festival, contact Maria Lambert at 734-942-7543.

Vendors interested in showcasing their wares at the festival should call Rosalie Berlinn at 734-941-4304. ❑

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Public Invited To Preview Kingsley House During Pumpkin Fest

Putting in years of hard work to bring the Historic Kingsley House project to near-fruition have been Romulus Historical Commission members (from left) Fred Hay, Terrell Bird, Mark Lewkowicz (Chairman), Gerald Wendland, Cathy Morse (Vice-chairman), and Bill Crane. (Not pictured: Kenneth Widman, Secretary.)

Pearl Varner, Director of the Romulus Historical Museum, has announced that the newly restored building known as the Kingsley House – located at 11147 Hunt Street, across from the Romulus Post Office – will be open for a "public preview" during the City's annual Pumpkin Festival.

Built circa 1855, the Samuel R. Kingsley House was originally located near Five Points on West Huron River Drive, but was moved to Romulus Historic Park after then-owners Eugene and Sylvia Perecki donated it to the City of Romulus.

Altogether, it has taken seven years for the City of Romulus, the Romulus Historical Commission, and the Romulus Historical Society to bring the project to near-fruition.

According to Varner, the two-day preview event will begin Saturday, September 21, from 1 to 5 p.m., and continue on Sunday, September 22, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Saturday's attractions will include an exhibition by a Civil War "Living History" group, as well as early-American craft demonstrations, entertainment by Dulce Musica (a three-piece band), and the unveiling of a special donor plaque.

Sunday's programs will include an antique tractors exhibition, dulcimer/guitar music, and craft demonstrations, along with a family-oriented presentation by the Underground Railroad Storyteller (2 p.m. only).

The preview event is sponsored by the City, the Commission, and the Society. Admission is free. ❑

Area residents will have a chance to preview the beautifully restored Kingsley House during the City's annual Pumpkin Festival.

Romulus Historical Society members Helen Hay (left) and Pearl Varner introduced everyone to their youngest historian, Hannah Varner – the granddaughter of Varner and great-grandaughter of Hay.

Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert congratulated the Commission and Society members on the successful restoration.

Community Calendar

- **Christian Family Money Management Seminar** – The Community United Methodist Church of Romulus is sponsoring a Christian Family Money Management Seminar at the church (11160 Olive Street in downtown Romulus) beginning September 9 and continuing each Monday through October 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. Preregistration is required by September 8. Call 734-432-1969.
- **Kiddie ID Program** – In commemoration of 9/11, the Best Western Gateway International Hotel in Romulus will join the Wayne County Sheriff's Department in hosting a Kiddie ID program from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, September 9, in the hotel atrium. The hotel is also donating $500 to each of three organizations: the Romulus Police Department, Romulus Fire Department, and Wayne County Sheriff's Department.
- **Immunization Clinics at RAHC** – Romulus Community Schools nurse Laura Ralko is reminding district parents that sixth-graders will be required to have their health records reassessed and could require additional vaccinations in order to meet the stringent new Michigan Department of Health regulations. To help parents comply with this and other immunization requirements, the district is scheduling a number of clinics at the Romulus Adolescent Health Center, located in Romulus High School. The clinics will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on the following dates: Wednesday, September 11; Wednesday, October 23; and Thursday, October 24. Note: this year's district-wide "exclusion date" is October 23.
- **Reception for the Belleville Art Colony** – The public is invited to a reception for the Belleville Art Colony, to be held in the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce building (248 Main Street) on Thursday, September 12, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Original paintings by Colony Artists will be displayed and awards will be presented for the Best of Show and Best Local Scene. Refreshments will be served.
- **Huron Township Historical Day** – The fifth annual Huron Township Historical Day is set for Saturday, September 14. The festivities will be held at the Historical House in New Boston from 1 to 4 p.m. (The Samuel Adams home will be formally dedicated at that time.). Featured will be musical entertainment, old-fashioned games for children, and "best dressed" contests for adults and kids. Refreshments will be provided by the Huron Township Chamber of Commerce. (Note: Volunteers are still needed for this event. To become involved, call 734-753-4416.)
- **Spaghetti Dinner/Live Auction Benefit** – Romulus Rotarians Steve Trahey and Kris Moe have organized a Spaghetti Dinner/Live Auction fundraiser for the family of Ronald Turner, who was killed by a drunk driver while walking on Goddard Road near Metro Airport. The dinner will be held at Progressive Hall (11580 Ozga, Romulus) on Monday, September 16, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is whatever you can afford to donate. The live auction will begin at 6 p.m. All donations will go to Turner's wife Mary and her three children: Kenny (age 7), Larry (6), and Jacob (2). (Note: Those who can't attend the fund-raiser can mail a tax-deductible contribution to the Romulus Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 485, Romulus, MI 48174.)
- **Chamber Luncheon** – Timothy Keyes, Director of Economic Development for the City of Romulus, will be the speaker for the September 17 luncheon/meeting of the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce. The event begins at noon in the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Reservations are $13 for Chamber members; $15 for nonmembers. Call the Chamber at 734-326-4290 no later than 2 p.m. on September 13.
- **Spaghetti Dinner Benefits CUMC** – An all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner will be held at Community United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 21, from 4 to 6 p.m. Tickets are $7.50 for adults and $4 for ages 6–12 (no charge for under 6). All proceeds will go to the CUMC Vision 2000 Building Fund.
- **Board of Education to Meet at Merriman** – In keeping with its decision to take half its meetings to the community, the Romulus Board of Education will hold its September 23 meeting at Merriman Elementary School. Among the agenda items will be a presentation on school climate and police liaisons by Jeffery Royal, Chris Powers, and Doug Hoffman. Start time is 6:30 p.m.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174–0038; FAX it to us at 734-992-2052; or call 734-941-1907

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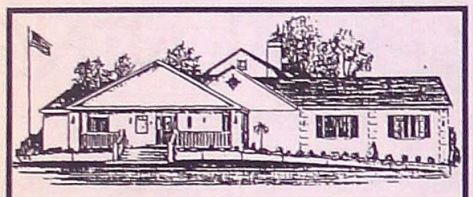

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McLachlan Visits British Isles

Jonathan McLachlan, a freshman at Romulus High School, enjoyed the experience of a lifetime this summer when the traveled to Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and England with the prestigious People to People student ambassador organization. He and 37 other students from Michigan and California traveled to the British Isles on July 3 and returned on July 23.

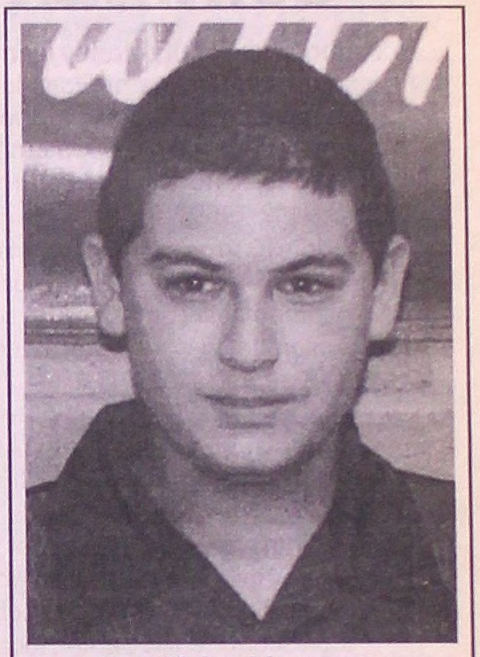
In order to become certified by People to People and become eligible for the trip, McLachlan first had to successfully complete a rigorous interview process, followed by six months of meetings to learn what to expect of the people, customs, and food. He also had to complete a report about one aspect of the geography, economy, or culture found in the British Isles.

"I was lucky enough to spend my birthday [July 4] in London, where we got to talk to a Member of Parliament about their system of government," said McLachlan. "Our dinner was the best birthday dinner of my life – at the Planet Hollywood in the middle of the West End entertainment district."

McLachlan also enjoyed visiting the Tower of London, where he learned about people killed at the scaffold, and taking pictures of Buckingham Palace.

Additional trip highlights included:

- several tours of castles (Cardiff, Pembroke, Conwy, and Edinburgh),
- staying with a Welsh family for 4 days
- attending school with the children in his "family"
- touring Dublin and learning about the city's Viking heritage
- kayaking on a beautiful lake in eastern Ireland
- getting his passport stamped at Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyndrobwillantysiliogogogoch, Wales
- learning about Welsh slate miners
- studying the Welsh language
- putting on the putting green at St. Andrews
- trying haggis (beef cooked inside a lamb's stomach) for the first time
- learning about the justice system of the 1600s



Jonathan McLachlan

- riding on the London Eye – the largest Ferris wheel in the world
- visiting an old Irish jail and seeing torture chambers while escorted by a prison guard who treated him like a prisoner in the "days of olde"
- staying in college housing while in London
- visiting a Waterford crystal factory.

McLachlan said that the People to People program was founded in the late 1950s by President Dwight Eisenhower. Eisenhower believed that it is vital for young people to learn the importance of promoting friendship and understanding among people of all countries. Student ambassadors experience personal growth through an enriching program of educational and cultural interaction. They also develop increased levels of maturity, independence, and leadership skills.

"I now appreciate the liberties and freedoms that I have being an American citizen," said McLachlan. "I was exposed to the life that other people in our global community live, and I will have better knowledge of how our global community operates."

He thanked his parents, Robert and Theresa McLachlan, for their support of this unique educational opportunity. ❑

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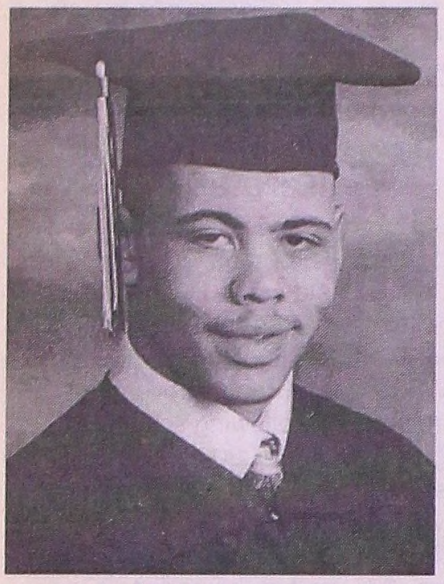
Dailey Chosen for National Young Leaders Conference



Leslie Dailey

Congratulations to Leslie Dailey of Romulus, who will be representing Michigan at the National Young Leaders Conference to be held in Washington, D.C., from Tuesday, October 29, through Sunday, November 3, 2002. Jason Hamstra at Summit Academy nominated Dailey as an outstanding individual who has achieved academic excellence and possesses strong leadership potential.

Among the many honors that Dailey has earned as a student are:

- National Honor Society membership,
- "academic excellence" recognition,
- "high honors" recognition,
- "most outstanding" awards in British literature, technology, and advanced networking, and
- citizenship awards.

As a participant in the National Young Leaders Conference, Dailey will have the opportunity to witness our nation's democracy in action and to interact with many of today's leaders from government, the media, and the diplomatic corps. He will attend a presentation on the Floor of the House of Representatives, take part in panel discussions with prominent journalists at the National Press Club, and attend an issue briefing conducted by a senior member of President Bush's administration. ❑

Summer Reading Program Concludes

Shelley Delano, Youth Librarian at the Romulus Public Library, reports that this year's Summer Reading Program for kids was a big success. Altogether, 193 children from Romulus, Huron Township, and surrounding areas took part and read for 89,479 minutes.

Children and their parents also enjoyed weekly entertainment programs at the library. Some of their favorites were:

- The Living Abe Lincoln,
- Bubble Man,
- Classy Critters, and
- (of course) Ronald McDonald.

The weekly programs were sponsored by the Friends of the Romulus Public Library and the Huron Rotary.

Prizes and incentives were purchased with money donated by the Romulus Rotary and the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce.

The final summer reading party – at which children received certificates, awards, and prizes, and also enjoyed pizza donated by the previously named groups and beverages donated by the local McDonald's – was very well attended.

A "guess the number of marbles in the jar" contest was won by 12-year-old Melissa Peterson of Romulus. Her guess of 503 was 10 off the correct number. For her superior skills in estimation, she won a *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* video.

Forty-nine readers qualified for "Gold Medal" honors. They earned this recognition by reading for at least 15 hours throughout the summer.

The Gold Medal honorees were: Madison Alexander, Ashleigh Anderson, Renee Barron, Brian Barron, Luke Bloom, Cameron Buck, Sammy Curtis, Blake Damron, Nathan Damron, Yetty Emanuel, Rachel Felice, Danielle Fellers, David Forebush, Joseph Forebush, Amber Franks, Clare Freeman, Sarah Freeman, Stanley Gadille, Caleb Hare, Jared Hare, Aaron Hayse, Andrew Hayse, David Hayse, Laura Hayse, Caitlyn Kalinovik, Emily Kalinovik, Ali Malallah, Jenna Malallah, Laila Malallah, Yousef Malallah, Zainab Malallah, Brittney Miller, Lucas Molic, Ryan Motley, Dakota Offman, Melissa Peterson, Meghan Polce, Joanna Rogers, Sarah Ross, Jonathon Sagraves, Kelsey Sagraves, Alicia Spurlock, Daijah Street, Drew Summitt, Jeremy Summitt, Lauren Summitt, Alex Wayt, and Alyssa Wayt.

"A good time was had by all," said Delano. "We thank both our participants and our sponsors who were so generous. We couldn't do such great programming without them.

"We are already looking forward to next year's program," she added.

The Library – located at 11121 South Wayne Road, next to City Hall – is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 12 to 5 p.m. ❑

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____
Birthdate _____ Time _____
Weight _____ Length _____
Birthplace _____
Parents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Siblings _____
_____
_____
Maternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Paternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):
_____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

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City _____ State _____
Groom's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Bride's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Bridesmaids _____
Groomsmen _____
Date of Engagement _____
Date of Wedding _____
Place _____
City _____ State _____
Reception _____
City _____ State _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):
_____

Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

Summer Tennis Program Concludes

Among those who took part in the off-site summer tennis program at Wellesley Townhouses co-op were (from left) Ashley Alexander, Alexander Carter, Kyana Lee, Kyara Lee, and Chamel Porter.

The City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation recently completed its summer youth tennis program.

A visit from Cartoon Network's SMASH Tennis Tour – a day-long event that introduced 700 Romulus students, parents, teachers, and guests to the game of tennis – kicked off the program in May. Six weeks of lessons began on June 24 and ended on August 9 with a picnic that followed a week-long mini-tournament.

An additional tennis program was offered off-site at the Wellesley Townhouses co-op. Fifteen students enjoyed tennis instruction, social games, daily computer activities, swimming twice a week, and Friday field trips.

Rec Program Made Summer More Fun

On August 2, the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation wrapped up its summer youth recreation program with a picnic at Elmer Johnson Park. Picnic activities included lunch, a dunk tank, and many games.

Over 100 children in grades K–6 took part in the summer program, which began June 24. Activities included swimming, arts & crafts, story time, outdoor events, and special trips. Free lunches were provided by the Wayne County Department of Health.

Story time was one of many events enjoyed by summer recreation participants.

Recreation News

Our thanks to Herbert Buckley, Director, City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, and Kristin Irwin, Recreation Coordinator, for supplying information for the "Recreation News" column.

Unless otherwise noted, registration for the following programs should be made at the Romulus Recreation Center (36515 Bibbins) during its regular hours (weekdays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.). For more information, stop in at the Center or call 734-942-6852.

Dance (for Boys & Girls)

The Recreation Department's dance program for children will begin the week of September 9 and continue, in 8-week sessions, through early May. Classes in "preschool" (ages 3 to 5), "dance club" (ages 6 to 12), and "competitive" (members only, ages 6 to 12) divisions will be held according to the following schedule:

Mondays (at Romulus High School)
- preschool ballet: 5 to 5:30 p.m.
- preschool hip-hop jazz: 5:30 to 6 p.m.
- preschool ballet: 6 to 6:30 p.m.
- "dance club" ballet: 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.
- competitive: 7:15 to 8 p.m.

Wednesdays (at Coleman Center)
- preschool tap: 12:30 to 1 p.m.
- preschool ballet: 1 to 1:30 p.m.
- preschool hip-hop jazz: 1:30 to 2 p.m.

Wednesdays (at the Rec Center)
- preschool tap: 5 to 5:30 p.m.
- "dance club" hip-hop jazz & tap combo: 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.
- competitive: 6:45 to 8:15 p.m.

Cost per 8-week session is $35 for 30-minute classes (2 classes for $60), $50 for 45-minute classes, $55 for 75-minute classes, and $65 for competitive classes. Sign up now.

Gymnastics #1

The Recreation Department's "Itty-Bitty Bunny" daytime gymnastics program for children ages 18 months to 4 years will be held at Romulus Progressive Hall each Monday and Tuesday from September 17 to October 29 according to the following schedule:
- parent/tot class (ages 18 months to 2½): 12:15 to 1 p.m.
- ages 3 to 4: 1 to 1:45 p.m.
- ages 3 to 4: 1:45 to 2:30 p.m.

Cost is $60 per session; $110 per session for students attending two times per week. Deadline for registration is Tuesday, September 10.

Gymnastics #2

The Tumblebunnies gymnastics program for ages 3 to 15 will be held at the Recreation Center each Tuesday from September 17 to October 29 according to the following schedule:
- ages 3 to 4: 6 to 6:45 p.m.
- ages 5 to 7: 6:45 to 7:30 p.m.
- ages 8 to 15: 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.

Cost is $60 per session. Registration deadline is Tuesday, September 10.

Karate

Session I of the Recreation Department's karate program for ages 7 to adult will be held in the Romulus High School wrestling room beginning September 9 and continuing each Monday and Wednesday through November 13 according to the following schedule:
- beginner: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- intermediate: 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- advanced: 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Cost per session is $45 for one person, $75 for two immediate family members, and $90 for three immediate family members. Sign up now.

Self-defense/Karate

Boys and girls ages 4 to 15 will gain confidence, self-discipline, and coordination while learning about physical fitness, safety awareness, and respect for others through participation in the Young Americans one-day self-defense/karate class, which will be held at Cory Elementary from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, September 19. The class, taught by certified black-belt instructors, will focus on "stranger danger" techniques and escaping from an attacker.

Although there is no charge for this class, parents/legal guardians are asked to arrive with their child(ren) a few minutes early to sign permission forms.

For more information, call All-American Youth Activities (313-388-6816) any weekday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

After-school Soccer

Students in grades 3 through 6 are invited to sign up for the Recreation Department's after-school soccer program, which will be held at Barth, Cory, Halecreek, and Romulus elementary schools from 3:30 to 5 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday from September 17 through November 7.

A cost of $15 per child includes bus transportation home and a T-shirt. Deadline for registration is Tuesday, September 10.

Note: Anyone interested in coaching after-school soccer should contact the Recreation Department.

Men's Fall Basketball

The Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for its Men's Open Division and Men's 30+ Division fall basketball leagues. League play (at Romulus Middle School) will begin the week of September 23. Cost is $200 per team (plus a $25 nonresident fee, if applicable). Call for more information. ❑

Letters to the Editor

continued from page 2

for being able to make a contribution to society and this country. Ditto to "Let's leave no child behind."

I particularly challenge African-American parents, families, and caretakers to rally and push for excellence. To those who are involved: much appreciation. To those who are not: your child needs you. Get involved, volunteer, and challenge our boys and girls to be the best, for "We are nothing until the least of us are something."

Let's prove wrong the statistics indicating that too many of our African-American males fall through the cracks by neglect. That trend (if true) can be reversed. Let us be the safety net for our children. "If it's to be, it's up to me."

Romulus Community Schools has the best technology, teaching staff, support systems, and programs a district could offer. Make the system work for us. Use it to your advantage. Embrace it. It's paid for.

Let's start the school year off on a good foundation. With the right frame of mind, putting forth the effort and expecting a great return -- yes, this is a GO! Our children are worth it and the community has paved the road for their success.

Are we up for that challenge?

Respectfully submitted,
Michael D. Woods
Trustee
Romulus Board of Education ❑

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and Friends of
Ronald Hall
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REGULAR MEETING, AUGUST 12, 2002

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, August 12, 2002, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Billy McCraight.

Roll call showed all Board members present. All administrators were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President McCraight.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

8/02/1 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Frayer to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

8/02/2 Moved by Frayer supported by Lenossi that the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 22, 2002, as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Personnel Actions

Mr. Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources, offered the following personnel actions for Board approval.

EMPLOYMENT: Molly Parent, Categorical Special Education Teacher, Halecreek Elementary, Effective August 26, 2002.

8/02/3 Moved by Frayer supported by Buckley to approve the employment of personnel as presented by Mr. Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

RETIREMENT: Terrell Bird, Engine Design/CAD/Robotics Teacher, High School, Effective June 30, 2002.

8/02/4 Moved by Woods supported by Frayer that the Board of Education approve the retirement of personnel as presented by Mr. Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

RESIGNATION: Deanna Forester, Project Coordinator, 21st Century Grant, Effective June 30, 2002 (Grant Ending).

8/02/5 Moved by Frayer supported by Woods that the Board of Education approve the resignation of personnel as presented by Mr. Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT – FYI: Jamie Vince, Kindergarten Aide, Merriman Elementary, Effective July 22, 2002.

Bills for Payment

8/02/6 Moved by Lenossi supported by Frayer that the Board of Education approve the Bills for Payment as presented by Mr. William A. Routhier, Director of Business and Operations. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Purchase Plato Learning System

8/02/7 Moved by Woods supported by Buckley that the Board of Education approve the purchase of Plato Secondary Math Series, support hardware, and training for 7–12 support math instruction for a cost of $87,480.00. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Construction Update

Mr. Kevin Waldman appeared before the Board with a construction update.

Contractor Change Order

8/02/8 Moved by Frayer supported by Buckley that the Board of Education approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the Contractor Change Orders for April, June, and July in the amount of $230,230.00. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Award Contract for Maintenance Storage Building

8/02/9 Moved by Lenossi supported by Buckley that the Board of Education approve the low bidder, W.J. Stewart Corporation, for the bid of $231,000.00 for the design and construction of the maintenance storage building. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

School Security System

8/02/10 Moved by Frayer supported by Lenossi that the Board of Education approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee to accept DataNet System Inc. for their low bid of $67,397.93 for school security systems at all buildings except Romulus High School. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Participating Resolution

8/02/11 Moved by Woods supported by Frayer that the Board of Education adopt the Participating Resolution in accordance with Sections 32d and 37 through 40 of the Michigan Department of Education State School Aid Act for funding for comprehensive and compensatory education for eligible four-year-old children as attached. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Schedule of Board Meetings

8/02/12 Moved by Woods supported by Roscoe that Board of Education schedule one meeting per month at schools throughout the district. Ayes: 6. Nays: 1 (Lenossi). Motion carried.

Discussion of Initiatives

Administrators spoke on each of the District Initiatives and updates for the 2002–2003 school year. Mr. Tom Dolan, Curriculum Director, is to get together with administrators and schedule a study session with Board of Education and administrators to discuss Initiatives further.

MASB – Delegates – Romulus

8/02/13 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Roscoe that Billy McCraight be appointed as MASB delegate. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

MASB – 2002 Board of Directors Election

This item to be placed as an Agenda item at next meeting of Board of Education.

Garden City Public Schools – Alternate Program for Pregnant Girls

8/02/14 Moved by Lenossi supported by Frayer that the Board of Education approve participation with Garden City Public Schools Alternative Program for Pregnant Girls. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc.

8/02/15 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Lenossi that the Board of Education adopt the Membership Resolution for the Michigan High School Athletic Association as attached. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Communications and Expressions from the Public

Mr. Ron Dick, President of the Romulus Boosters Club, requested matching funds from the Board of Education for athletic equipment.

8/02/16 Moved by Woods supported by Frayer that the Board of Education match funds of one half of $10,701.00 for athletic equipment as requested by the Romulus Boosters Club. Ayes: 6. Abstain: 1 (Buckley). Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Ms. Tameka Miller addressed the Board of Education with concern of half-day kindergarten classes at Romulus Elementary School. She requested that the Board look into all-day kindergarten. Ms. Sherrie Hicks addressed the Board with regard to Cable and viewing of Board meetings. Ms. Sandy Tenney suggested that a sign be made for the High School football field.

Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, shared the following items of interest with members of the Board of Education: (1) Reading Express – Summer Program; (2) Summer School – Attendance; (3) Middle School – Summer Program; and (4) 21st Century Summary.

QUESTIONS AND/OR CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Michael Woods expressed concern about the condition of school grounds. Mrs. April Frayer complimented the windows in the schools and questioned as to whether Halecreek had been painted. Mrs. Betty Lenossi asked about the Governor's Summit scheduled for September 18, 2002. Mr. Kenneth Mientkiewicz was concerned about security with the level of windows at Romulus High School. Mr. Mientkiewicz also asked about the lighting around the stage and sound system at Romulus High School.

ADJOURNMENT:

8/02/17 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Frayer to adjourn. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryle Buckley, Secretary, Romulus Board of Education

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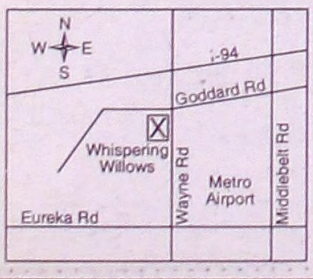

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Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, and Melissa Morton, Manager of the Romulus Tower, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column.

(For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, call 734-942-6852.)

Senior Center Commemorates 9/11

The Romulus Senior Center will conduct a service in remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001, on Wednesday, September 11, 2002, beginning at 1 p.m.

George Aren, Director of Disaster Services for the Salvation Army, and John Thiede, Romulus firefighter, will share their experiences of the aftermath of the terrorist attack.

Also present will be Romulus Emergency Management Coordinator Margaret Leduc, who will discuss and answer questions about potential emergencies in our own community and how our city is preparing for them.

Lunch with Boike

Wayne County Commissioner Edward Boike will host a spaghetti luncheon on Friday, September 27, at 1 p.m. Boike has organized the event so that area residents can discuss County-related issues with him in a comfortable, informal atmosphere.

Although there is no charge to attend this event, the Center hopes that those who plan to attend will RSVP so that staff members can be sure there is enough food for all.

"Fish" Fun

Carole Bales, executive secretary to Romulus Community Schools Superintendent Joel R. Carr, will bring the district's overwhelmingly popular "Fish" motivational program to the Senior Center on Monday, September 16, at 2 p.m.

Bales and Center Director Linda Norman invite everyone to come in, enjoy some light refreshments, and take part in a delightful program that you just may get hooked on, and swim away with some alternative ways of thinking about and approaching life.

New York, New York

The Center is inviting local seniors to attend a performance of *New York, New York* at the Novi Theater on Thursday, September 12. A cost of $20 includes transportation (departing from the Center at 10 a.m.), a nice lunch, and admission to the show.

Seats are limited, so early sign-up is strongly recommended.

Special Trips

Seniors interested in more information about these or other special trips that have been planned by the Romulus Senior Center should call Linda Norman.

- ***"Hiawatha Slots"*** (September 12; $22);
- ***"My Fair Lady"*** (October 29; $89);
- ***Point Edward Casino*** (November 7; $15);
- ***MGM*** (November 14; $15); and
- ***Las Vegas*** (November 18–22; $579).

"Pumpkin" Craft Class

On Friday, September 13, at 1 p.m., the Romulus Senior Center will offer a one-day craft class that will help you set the stage for the City's annual Pumpkin Festival. For information regarding cost, etc., call the Center. Deadline for registration is Monday, September 9.

Parade of Lights

Once again, the Romulus Senior Center will be participating in the City's annual "Parade of Lights," which will kick off the Romulus Pumpkin Festival on Friday, September 20. To find out how you can become involved in this illuminating event, call the Center.

Ceramics Resumes

The Center's ceramics program, currently on summer break, will resume on September 9 and continue each Monday from 1 to 3 p.m. and again from 6 to 9 p.m.

Cost for each daytime class is $1 for residents/$1.50 for nonresidents; the evening class is $1.50 per person (ages 14 and up). Students must provide their own supplies. Firing is available.

Weekly Programs

Besides the many special activities offered at the Romulus Senior Center, a number of regularly scheduled free or low-cost programs are also open to local senior citizens.

They include:

- Club #1 (Tuesdays, 11 a.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- "fun night" (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- pinochle (Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.), and
- quilting (Thursdays, 7 p.m.).

Ask the Attorney

Local attorney Steve Robinson's monthly "Ask the Attorney" program – a free consultation service for Romulus senior citizens – has been scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, at the Center. Walk-ins (36515 Bibbins) and call-ins (734-942-6852) welcome.

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